Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Competitive Sub-grant Application Assurance Sheet

Project Title: __LINK__   Amount of Request: $__75,000__

District Name (Fiscal Agent for Consortiums):__Post Falls__   Number: __273__

Please list the school name, and indicate whether it is a targeted school or a partner school and certify the CIPA compliance for all participating schools within the project:

Dist. # or 'P' for Private School	School Name	This school is a targeted school 'T' or a partner school 'P'.		This school is in compliance with the CIPA as outlined on page 3 of the guidance document.	
273	Mullan Trail Elementary School	(T)	P	(YES)	NO
273	Ponderosa Elementary School	(T)	P	(YES)	NO
273	Prairie View Elementary School	(T)	P	(YES)	NO
273	Seltice Elementary School	(T)	P	(YES)	NO
		T	P	YES	NO
		T	P	YES	NO
		T	P	YES	NO
		T	P	YES	NO
		T	P	YES	NO
		T	P	YES	NO
		T	P	YES	NO
		T	P	YES	NO

I certify that we have contacted the charter and private schools in our area about participation in this grant.

Superintendent Name	E-mail	Telephone
Jerry Keane	jkeane@sd273.com	208-773-1658
Signature		
District Technology Coordinator Name	E-mail	Telephone
Jon Wilkerson	jwilkers@sd273.com	208-773-1658
Signature		
Project Director Name (if different than District Technology Coordinator)	E-mail	Telephone
Barney Brewton	bbrewton@sd273.com	208-773-1658
Signature		

Project Abstract LINK (Language Instruction - Networking Knowledge)

District Mission: All students will have the attitudes, skills and knowledge to be productive and responsible citizens.

Instructional Goal: Provide all students opportunities to achieve at their highest level.

Objectives: Offer staff development opportunities that will promote student achievement.
Support the use of technology in instruction.

District Target: 80% of our fifth grade students will pass the ISAT by spring of 2008.

The district mission, goal and objectives are very clear and directive. With these directives embedded in our planning and teaching of students, the Post Falls School District employs a variety of instructional strategies that infuse a large amount of technology into the classroom.

Goal: The LINK project will increase student achievement as measured on the ISAT by providing structured teacher professional development and access to relevant technology for the classroom and home. The LINK project will extend and enhance the district's language usage improvement efforts by providing additional time and resources that utilize successful research-based technology programs. The technology will be used to provide opportunities to engage, teach and practice language usage skills, develop mastery with language concepts and enhance mastery of language usage and the writing process. With a commitment to implement the program with passion and fidelity the project will improve students' language usage understanding, vocabulary and writing.

The use of technology across the Post Falls School District continues to increase as teachers share information and knowledge with students, as students share information and knowledge with other students and teachers, as teachers share with other teachers and as we tap into the instructional empowerment that technology can provide to enhance content and curriculum. Paul E. Barton, Senior Associate for the Educational Testing Information Center, found technology-assisted instruction to be one of six factors that directly correlate with student achievement and success. (Barton, 2004).

Fifth grade students are the target of this effort due to a significant drop in their ISAT language usage scores, non-satisfaction of AYP requirements and district-wide DWA scores that do not reach proficiency. As fifth grade students prepare to go on to the middle school grades, it is our responsibility to have them academically prepared in all areas. Each of our four elementary schools will be involved in this project.

We will increase teacher participation and involvement with technology integration by providing elementary teachers with the training, the tools and the support to provide enhanced language usage activities for their students. Additionally, the teachers will be given a correlated and developed list of additional website resources that are aligned to national and state standards. At the end of the first year the teachers and the Elementary Program Director will examine the data and determine revision, refinement and possible growth recommendations for the Board of Trustees.

Educational Need

Demographic Data: Post Falls lies in the northwest corner of the state. The school district is comprised of a kindergarten center, four elementary schools, two middle schools, a high school and an alternative high school. The student population of the district is close to 5,500 and has grown at a rate of 1 1/2 % to 3 % per year.

Our four elementary schools are Ponderosa, Prairie View, Seltice, and Mullan Trail.
- Seltice Elementary serves 640 students with 47% of the students qualifying for free or reduced meals.
- Mullan Trail Elementary serves 420 students with 48% of the students qualifying for free or reduced meals.
- Prairie View Elementary serves 575 students with 43% of the students qualifying for free or reduced meals.
- Ponderosa Elementary serves 500 students with 51% of the students qualifying for free or reduced meals.

Each school's student population is primarily Caucasian, and each school reflects average factors regarding attendance, student behavior and social adjustment.

Student Achievement Data:
The Post Falls School District did not meet proficiency in language usage in 2006-2007. None of the elementary schools made AYP in the spring of 2007.

Data regarding language usage was analyzed on the spring ISAT scores, the DWA, student achievement records and teacher assessment.

Each of the four elementary schools did not met proficiency targets on the language usage portion of the ISAT. While the percentages reflect limited proficiency success, our analysis is that the initial passing of the ISAT language usage in the fifth grade represents a rather false positive with relation to mastery as evidenced by the spring ISAT scores for the incoming sixth grade class.

The fourth grade class passed the spring 2007 ISAT with 83.4 % proficiency, but our fifth grade score was down to 71% proficient or better with only 16.2 % being advanced as compared to 29.4 % advanced in the fourth grade.

DWA scores also decreased from 2006 to 2007. Additionally we continue to remain below proficiency. Proficiency is a 3 while our average is 2.91.

The economically disadvantaged subgroup has 36% of the population not meeting proficiency.

Spring 2006 Language Usage ISAT Results - Grade 5

School	Number of Students	% Students Scoring at Below Basic	% Students Scoring at Basic	% Students Scoring at Proficient	% Students Scoring at Advanced
Mullan Trail	85	9.4	27.1	54.1	9.4
Ponderosa	86	8.1	15.1	54.7	22.1
Prairie View	130	10.8	19.2	49.2	20.8
Seltice	113	3.5	23.0	61.9	11.5

Our proposal suggests that students have enough knowledge as presented by teachers to marginally pass the ISAT language usage at their grade level, but when presented with the next years' ISAT data, the analysis indicates that proficiency achievement has not progressed beyond knowledge level and lacks student understanding. We will correct that gap by infusing a well researched and scripted enhancement program that will take the students' knowledge level to the understanding and authentic application level. We liken it to a student that is shown the mechanics of how to ride the bike. He can tell you the steps, but when he gets on the bike it apparent that he has not had the enhancement and practice that will turn his knowledge into understanding and application.

The district has provided, and continues to provide, a variety of interventions at all of our elementary schools. Interventions include but are not limited to software such as Plato, Accelerated Reader and Idaho Digital Learning Practice.

The LINK is an exciting opportunity for students and teachers. It will positively impact our students' understanding of the English language and how to use it. It will also provide well researched interactive programming to enhance the language usage curriculum.

The funding of this grant will allow us to purchase additional classroom computers and an LCD projector for each of our fifth grade classrooms. Each computer will have access to Harcourt Brace Language software for individualized instruction. Additionally, the project will fund a Harcourt Brace expert to come in and provide comprehensive training for the educators that will be using the program. This training will be in conjunction with our new language arts adoption. Initial training will be conducted late this spring with two additional trainings during the 2007-2008 school year.

The Harcourt Brace software was chosen because it is the supplemental language arts component that complements the district adoption. Research has shown that the interactive learning the software offers will provide immediate feedback to students, teachers and parents.

Local Project

The LINK will:
- increase student achievement through technology use,
- increase the number of students that show proficiency in the language usage portion of the ISAT,
- encourage effective integration of technology through teacher training and curriculum development to establish successful research based instructional methods,
- improve student motivation and engagement by implementing more use of technology and differentiated instruction,
- increase student language usage achievement using new technology to give teachers and students access to software currently in the schools,
- increase parent involvement with students,
- increase students' published writings.

Expanded use of technology in the classroom and increased training for teachers will provide students with a greater variety of teaching strategies, differentiated instruction and more hands-on computer use which will lead to increased student achievement. Student achievement will be improved with the additional time spent on authentic language usage activities using the enhancement provided by the project.

Student Goals, Objectives, Activities
Goal: Increase student understanding and application of language usage, vocabulary and the writing process.
Objectives:
- Show improved application of language usage skills on ISAT tests.
  Activity: Students will access the interactive software in center time or independent time to practice and enhance their language usage skills. Example: Harcourt Brace interactive language arts enhancement - Harcourt Trophies and Grammar Practice Park at www.hbschool.com
- Demonstrate improved application of writing process on the Direct Writing Assessment and other writing activities.
  Activity: Students will write, revise, edit and attempt to publish on-line their own authored writings. Example: Write Source, Publish It! - http://thewritesource.com and Post Falls School District website, 5th Grade Corner News at www.pfsd.com.
- Show improved application of language usage, vocabulary and writing in everyday assignments and routine assessments.
  Activity: Students will participate in interactive language arts activities, practice tests and tutorials. Example: www.internet4classrooms.com and, specifically to the 5th grade population, www.internet4classrooms.com/skills_5th.htm.

Teachers Goals, Objectives, Activities
Goal: Increase application of technology-assisted instruction and enhancement to provide more opportunities for student success in language usage, vocabulary and writing.

Objectives:
- Apply integrative training and coaching opportunities into the regular classroom delivery system.
  Activity: Teachers will participate in professional onsite trainings by Harcourt professional staff, and identified SRA personnel.
- Demonstrate student improvement using relevant data.
  Activity: Teachers will track student achievement using regular classroom assessments, the ISAT and the DWA.
- Demonstrate program progress.
  Activity: Teachers will track the use of the program and monitor student achievement growth.
- Sustain and extend line program
  Activity: Teachers will participate in regular round table discussions and make recommendations for revisions, additions and additional trainings. Faculty in each school will have access to one of the trained teachers on a daily basis to establish a coaching model focused on program integrity, growth and expanding integration of technology into the classroom.

Parent Goals, Objectives, Activities
Goal: Increase the parent's ability to assist students at home with language usage.
Objectives:
- Use the interactive programs at home.
  Activity: The technology department will create a link for parents that will direct them to user-friendly tutorial programs developed by teachers and experts across the nation.
- Understand how to help their students language skills, vocabulary and writing
  Activity: The classroom teachers will have an orientation on what LINK is and how to use it.

Timeline

Spring 2008	District creates web link for teachers, students and parents
Spring 2008	District conducts training for teachers
Spring 2008	Students take Spring ISAT
Summer 2008	District creates local website 5th grade corner
Summer 2008	Testing Director analyzes ISAT data and develops monitoring
Fall 2008	District conducts refresher training
September 2008	Schools conduct family orientation
September 2008	Teachers conduct orientation lesson for students
October 2008 +	Teachers monitor lessons, edited works and regular assessments
November 2008 +	Teachers meet monthly to review and revise
November 2008 +	Students submit works for publication on websites
Winter 2008	Students participate in DWA
Spring 2008	Students participate in Spring ISAT
Spring 2008	Teachers and District Testing Director compare student data
Spring 2008	Teachers and Administration recommend revisions and replication

Sustainability:

In order to assure a sustainable and successful program the Post Falls School District will:
- purchase extended warranties on all hardware,
- purchase replacement bulbs for projectors,
- provide ongoing technical support,
- pay annual software license fees,
- provide ongoing professional development through a site coaching model that will allow masterful educators to lead others to successfully integrate technology into instruction.

Harcourt Brace and SRA professionals will provide on-going professional development.

Student academic success is always the primary goal. Routine monitoring of this project will be conducted in order to determine the success rate of the program. In addition to routine monitoring, the teachers and district administrators will analyze the end-of-year data to determine a recommendation to replicate in other areas of the district.

Budget Narrative

Equipment	Fifth Grade Classrooms: equip 15 fifth grade classrooms with 3 additional computers for individualized instruction	$36,000
	Projectors for 15 classrooms(ceiling mounted, including cables and brackets)	$15,000
	Harcourt Brace Network Version	$3,000
Professional Development	In-service training fifth grade teachers, Technology coaches ($1000 x 4)	$4,000
	In the spring of 2008, a representative of Harcourt Brace will in-service our teachers on use of the new Language Arts curriculum. (This is provided as part of the package). The Harcourt Brace representative will provide additional training twice during the 2007-2008 school year	$6,000
	SRA training: The Integrated Classroom	$5,000
	Interactive technology instruction	$3,000
	Parent training night	$1,000
Personnel	Fifth grade lead teachers ($500 x 4)	$2000
Total		$75,000